

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA:RLSNEIDER:AVM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228496

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, JA

SUBJECT: KIM TAE CHUNG CASE: PROFESSOR REISCHAUER

REFS: (A) TOKYO 15081; (B) SEOUL 7783

1. PROFESSOR REISCHAUER CALLED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SNEIDER NOVEMBER 19 TO REITERATE VIEWS SET FORTH REF (A). REISCHAUER ADDED VERY LITTLE, EXCEPT TO APPEAL FOR US INTERVENTION ON TWO GROUNDS: FIRST, ON BASIS "HUMAN RIGHTS;" AND, SECOND, THAT KIM TAE CHUNG IMPRISONMENT WOULD LEAD TO VERY STRONG ANTI-KOREAN REACTION IN US TO DETRIMENT US-KOREAN RELATIONS.

2. SNEIDER RESPONDED THAT FROM BEGINNING OF KIM TAE CHUNG AFFAIR, US HAD STUCK TO POSITION OF NON-INVOLVEMENT AND NON-INTERVENTION. ROK WAS, OF COURSE, AWARE OF OUR INTEREST AND CONCERN WITH EARLY AS POSSIBLE SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM. IN PRESENT INSTANCE, NAMELY, EXPEDITING KIMTAE CHUNG DEPARTURE FROM KOREA, THERE IS NO BASIS FOR US ACTION, SINCE KIM AND FAMILY HAVE JUST APPLIED FOR PASSPORT. FURTHERMORE, US INVOLVEMENT COULD WELL BE
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COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND HURT KIM'S PROSPECTS.

3. SNEIDER ALSO DISPUTED REISCHAUER'S CONTENTION THAT KIM CASE COULD LEAD TO VERY STRONG ANTI-KOREAN REACTION IN US. HE STRESSED THIS INITIAL PERSONAL REACTION, SINCE WE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY COMMENTS AS YET FROM AMBASSADOR

HABIB (REF B ARRIVED SUBSEQUENTLY).

4. REISCHAUER CONCLUDED -- CORRECTLY -- THAT WE HAD TAKEN NEGATIVE ATTITUDE WITH RESPECT INTERVENTION ON EXPEDITING KIM'S PASSPORT. KISSINGER

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